

LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI RECEIVES BRIEFING FROM OFFICIALS ON PROGRESS OF ANGORA FIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi was briefed by state, county and regional officials today on the progress of recovery efforts after this summer's devastating Angora Fire in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Lieutenant Governor met with members of the recovery teams responsible for debris and tree removal, residential reconstruction, and environmental restoration efforts. He called their outstanding work to restore the community, lake and its surroundings critical.

“The accomplishments of these recovery teams are nothing short of remarkable, and they should be commended,” said the Lieutenant Governor. “The importance of preserving the Lake Tahoe area and protecting its beauty is crucial to the environment, the regional economy, and the state's tourism industry. Most importantly, because of the diligence of the recovery teams, community members can focus on rebuilding their lives and overcoming this disaster.”

During the briefing officials announced that \$8 million has been secured to fund additional cleanup efforts through the winter. Of that funding, \$4.7 million comes from federal sources, \$1.8 million from the state, and \$1.5 million from local government in El Dorado County.

From 1974-1984, Lieutenant Governor Garamendi represented the South Lake Tahoe region in the California Legislature. In 1980, he authored the legislation expanding the powers of the Tahoe Regional Planning Act. He also authored legislation creating the Tahoe Conservancy and the Tahoe Bond Act to protect the area's natural beauty and resources.

As Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior under President Clinton, the Lieutenant Governor helped organize the 1997 Presidential Summit that resulted in the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program. To date, the program has generated \$1.1 billion to protect the Lake's clarity, the health of its surrounding forests, and air quality.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2007

Office: 916 / 445-8994